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Claims

What is claimed is:

A method of operating an information handling system comprising: 1.

providing an add-in-card (AIC) connector exhibiting a first bus standard, the AIC connector accepting both AICs compatible with the first bus standard and AICs not compatible with the first bus standard;

providing a direct path between the AIC connector and a first bus when an AIC exhibiting the first bus standard is plugged into the AIC connector; and

providing a translation path between the AIC connector and the first bus when an AIC exhibiting a standard other than the first bus standard is plugged into the AIC connector.

- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein an AIC employs a first protocol.
- 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the AIC employs a second protocol different from the first protocol.
- 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the AIC includes a PCIE device.
- The method of claim 3 wherein the AIC includes a non-PCIE device. 5.
- 6. The method of claim 3 wherein the translation path includes an integrated function block which exhibits a function needed by the AIC.

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7. The method of claim 3 wherein the integrated function is a fixed integrated function.

- 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the integrated function is an audio function.
- The method of claim 7 wherein the integrated function is a communications 9. function.
- 10. The method of claim 3 wherein the translation path includes a plurality of integrated function blocks, each integrated function block exhibiting a different function.
- 11. The method of claim 3 wherein the translation path includes a programmable integrated function block which is capable of providing a plurality of functions.
- 12. The method of claim 11 including requesting by the AIC that the programmable integrated function block switch to providing a function requested by the AIC.

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13. An information handling system (IHS) comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor by a host bridge;

a first bus exhibiting a first bus standard, the first bus being coupled to the host bridge;

an add-in-card (AIC) connector compatible with the first bus standard, the AIC connector accepting both AICs compatible with the first bus standard and AICs not compatible with the first bus standard;

a direct path between the AIC connector and the first bus for use when an AIC exhibiting the first bus standard is plugged into the AIC connector; and

a translation path between the AIC connector and the first bus for use when an AIC exhibiting a standard other than the bus standard is plugged into the AIC connector.

- 14. The IHS of claim 13 wherein an AIC in the AIC connector employs a first protocol.
- 15. The IHS of claim 14 wherein an AIC in the AIC connector employs a second protocol.
- 16. The IHS of claim 14 wherein the AIC includes a PCIE device.
- 17. The IHS of claim 15 wherein the AIC includes a non-PCIE device.
- 18. The IHS of claim 15 wherein the translation path includes an integrated function block which exhibits a function needed by the AIC.

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19. The IHS of claim 18 wherein the integrated function block exhibits fixed integrated function.

- 20. The IHS of claim 18 wherein the function is an audio function.
- 21. The IHS of claim 18 wherein the function is a communications function.
- 22. The IHS of claim 15 wherein the translation path includes a plurality of integrated function blocks, each integrated function block exhibiting a different function.
- 23. The IHS of claim 15 wherein the translation path includes a programmable integrated function block which is capable of providing a plurality of different selectable functions.